

The Polynesian.

HONOLULU, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1847.

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JAMES J. JARVIS, EDITOR.

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CITY OF NAUVOO.

The Mormon City occupies an elevated position, and as approached from the south, appears capable of containing a hundred thousand souls. But its gloomy streets being a most melancholly disappointment. Where lately resided no less than twenty-five thousand people, there are not to be seen more than about five hundred; and these, in mind, body and purse, seem to be perfectly wretched. In a walk of about ten minutes, I counted several hundred chimneys, which were all at least the number of families had left behind them, as memorials of their folly, and the wickedness of their persecutors. When this city was in its glory, every dwelling was surrounded with a garden, so that the corporation limits were uncommonly extensive; but now all the fences are in ruin, and the lately crowded streets actually rank with vegetation. Of the houses left standing, not more than one out of every ten is occupied, excepting by the spider and the toad. Hardly a window retained a whole pane of glass, and the doors were broken, and open, and hingeless. Not a single laughing voice did I hear in the whole place, and the lines of suffering and care seemed to be imprinted on the faces of the very children who met me in the way. I saw not a single of those numerous domestic animals, which add so much to the comforts of human life; and I heard not a single song even from the robin and the wren, which are always so sure to build their nests about the habitations of man. Aye, the very sunshine, and the pleasant passing breeze, seemed both to speak of sin, sorrow, and utter desolation.

Yet, in the centre of this scene of ruins, stands the Temple of Nauvoo, which is unquestionably one of the finest buildings in this country. It is built of limestone, quarried within the limits of the city, in the bed of a dry stream, and the architect, named Weeks, and every individual who labored upon the building, were Mormons. It is one hundred and twenty-eight feet in length, eighty feet wide, and from the ground to the extreme summit it measures two hundred and ninety-two feet. It is principally after the Roman style of architecture, somewhat intermixed with Grecian and Egyptian. It has a portico, with three Roman archways. It is surrounded with pilasters, at the base of each is carved a new moon, inverted, while the capital of each is formed of an uncouth head, supported by two hands holding a trumpet. Directly under the tower in front is the inscription, in golden letters: "The House of the Lord. Built by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Commenced April 6th, 1841. Holiness to the Lord." In the basement room, which is paved with brick, and converges to the centre, is a Baptismal Font, supported by 12 oxen, large as life, the whole executed in solid stone. Two stairways lead into it, from opposite directions, while on either side are two rooms for the recording clerks, and all around, no less than twelve preparation rooms besides. On the first floor are three pulpits, and a place for the choir; and on either side eight Roman windows. Over the prophet's pulpit or throne, is this inscription: "The Lord has beheld our sacrifice: come after us." Between the first and second floors are two long rooms, appropriated to the patriarchs, which are lighted with eight circular windows each. The room of the second floor, in every particular, is precisely like that of the first. Around the half of a spacious attic are twelve small rooms, with circular windows and a massive lock on each door. At the two front corners of the edifice are two winding stairways, which meet at the base of the tower and lead to the summit, while the roof of the main building is arranged for a place of promenade; and the walls of the noble edifice vary from four to six feet in thickness.

Estimating the manual labor at the usual prices of the day, it is said that the cost of the Temple was about \$800,000. The owners now offer to sell it for \$200,000, but it will be a long time, I fancy, before a purchaser is found. The Mormon who took me over the Temple, and gave me the above information, was nearly broken-hearted. Like the majority of his brethren, remaining in the city, he was without money, and without friends, and yet, it was to be his destiny, in a few days, to push his way into the wilderness, with a large family depending on him for support. It was in a most melancholly tone, indeed, that he spoke to me the following words: "Mine, sir, is a hard, hard lot. What if my religion is a false one, if I am sincere, is it not cruel, in the extreme, for those who call themselves the only true church, to oppress me and my people as they have done? My property has been stolen from me, and while my family is dependent upon a more fortunate brother for support, my little children can not go into the streets without being pelted with stones, and my daughters cannot go to the well after a pail of water, without being insulted by the young and noble among our persecutors. I do not deserve this treatment. I am not a scoundrel or a foreigner;—far from the truth is this supposition. My grandfather, sir, was killed at the battle of Yorktown, as an officer of the glorious Revolution; my own father, too, was also an American army officer during the last war; and all my kindred have ever been faithful to the upright laws of the government. Knowing, therefore, these things to be true, and knowing, too, that I am an honest man, it is very hard to be treated by my fellow countrymen as a 'vagabond.' O, I love this sacred Temple, dearly, and it makes me weep to think that I must soon leave it to the tender mercies of the Christian world."

Thus far had this poor man proceeded, when his utterance was actually choked with tears, and I was glad of it, for my own heart was affected by his piteous tale. I gave him a dollar for his trouble, when he was called to attend a new arrival of visitors, and I was left alone in the belfry of the Temple.

Then it was that I had an opportunity to muse upon the superb panorama which met

my gaze upon every side. I was in a truly splendid temple,—that temple in the centre of a desolate city,—and that city in the centre of an apparently boundless wilderness. To the east lay in perfect beauty the grand Prairie of Illinois, reaching to the waters of Michigan; and to the north and south faded away the winding Mississippi; and on the west, far as the eye could reach, was spread out a perfect sea of forest land, entering which, I could just distinguish a caravan of exiled Mormons, on their line of march to Oregon and California. As before remarked, when I went forth from out the massy porches of the Mormon Temple, to journey deeper into the wilderness, I felt like one awakened from a dream.

ERUPTION OF MOUNT HECLA.—A letter from Copenhagen, of the 16th of April, says: "The packet which arrived yesterday from Reikavik, in Iceland, has brought us letters from that town of the 8th of March, (four days later) which give curious details respecting the malady under which the cattle were suffering, from having eaten grass, &c., covered with the ashes vomited by Mount Hecla. 'These ashes,' says the letter, 'act more particularly on the bones of the animals which have swallowed them. Thus, on the bones of the feet there are formed, in less than twenty-four hours, osseous excrescences, of an oblong form, which gradually assume so formidable a development that they prevent the beasts from walking; the same phenomenon is then manifested in the lower jaw, which is at the same time enlarged, and extends in all directions so considerably that it eventually splits in several places; whilst on the teeth of the upper jaw there is formed a species of osseous needles, very long and pointed, which take root in the lower jaw, and even traverse it; a phrase of the malady which always determines a fatal issue.' As high winds had prevailed for some time, volcanic ashes were scattered throughout the island, and a great number of cattle, especially oxen, cows, and sheep, had perished. If the eruption of Hecla, says the letters from Reikavik, is prolonged for two months more, all the rural proprietors who have not enough hay to feed their herds, and the majority are in this situation, will be obliged either to slaughter their cattle or to abandon them to certain death on the pastures thus poisoned by the volcanic ashes. The eruption of Mount Hecla was extremely violent. The flames which issued from the three great craters attained a height of 14,000 feet, and their breadth exceeded the greatest breadth of the river Picesen, the most considerable river in Iceland. The lava had already formed lofty mountains, and amongst the masses of pumice stone vomited by the volcano, and which have been found at a distance of three-fourths of a mile, (a French league and a half) there were some which weighed half a ton, (450 kilograms French). By the eruption of Hecla the enormous quantities of snow and ice which had accumulated for several years on the sides of that mountain have been melted, and partly fallen into the river Rangem, which has overflowed its banks several times. The waters of that river, which runs almost at the foot of Mount Hecla, and which receives a large portion of the burning lava, were so hot that every day they fast upon the banks numbers of dead trout, almost half baked! Every night vivid streaks of the aurora borealis illumined the sky."—[Boston Transcript.]

REMARKABLE PROPHECY.—Mr. Poinsett has communicated to De Bow's Commercial Review of New Orleans, some papers on Mexico, of remarkable merit. In the number for May is contained the following striking prophecy:—

The Spanish Minister, Count de Aranda, after signing the treaty of Paris, in 1783, submitted to the King a secret memoir, in which he declares the independence of the British Colonies fills his mind with grief and fear, and expresses his belief that both France and Spain acted in opposition to their interests when they espoused the cause of the colonies. He regards the existence of the United States of America as highly dangerous to the Spanish American possessions, and on this subject uses the following very remarkable language:—"This federal republic is born a pigmy; if it may be allowed so to express myself, it has required the support of two such powerful states as France and Spain to obtain its independence. The day will come when she will be a giant, a colossal, formidable even in these countries. She will forget the services she has received from the two powers, and will think only of her own aggrandizement. The liberty of conscience, the facility of establishing a new population upon immense territories, together with the advantages of a new government (meaning free) will attract the agriculturists and mechanics of all nations, for men will ever run after fortune; and in a few years we shall see the tyrannical existence of this very colossalness of which I speak."

The first step of this nation, after it has become powerful, will be to take possession of the Florida, in order to have command of the Gulf of Mexico, and after having rendered difficult our commerce with New Spain, she will aspire to the conquest of that vast empire, which will be difficult for us to defend against a formidable power established on the same continent and in its immediate neighborhood.

These fears are well founded; they must be realized in a few years if some greater revolution even more fatal does not sooner take place in our Americas."

In conclusion, he proposes as the best means of averting this imminent danger, that Spain should relinquish the Americas and establish three of the infantas, one to be king of Mexico, one of Peru, and the other of Costa Firma, retaining under the dominion of the mother country only Porto Rico and Cuba; and recommends that a treaty of commerce should be entered into between France and Spain, in relation to these countries, from the advantages of which Great Britain should be excluded.

FILLING UP THE CHINKS OF TIME.—A late writer in the Newark Advertiser has some admirable comments upon the importance of occupying the gaps of time in pursuits calculated to be of a lasting benefit to the understanding, and always useful, let the business or profession be what it may. The observation is very justly made, that "the odd hours of one who keeps his faculties always in working order, are more fruitful than the long vacation of a slumberer." It is well to refresh the mind daily by some diversion into paths remote from the ordinary routine of business. The Advertiser goes on to give various instances of individuals eminent in their respective callings, who have yet boldly and enthusiastically pushed their inquiries into other domains of thought:

"Julius Caesar lives in history, as a great commander. But he was at the same time a ripe, accurate, and elegant scholar, and a model of eloquence, in that species which his severe taste had chosen. Melancthon was a theologian and a reformer—but no man of his age did more to illustrate the classical works of Greece and Rome. On the other hand, Pascal, who was a mathematician and a physician, and Grotius, who was a jurist and statesman, rank among the very highest names in the field of theology. Neglecting chronological order, we find in the same category the names of Bacon, Newton, Boyle, Descartes, Brougham and Brewster."

"While laymen have been great in theology, men of eminent religious name have occasionally carried on a collateral train of secular investigation. The great work of Spencer, noted for his part in the revival of evangelical religion in Germany, is a folio on Heraldy, which is still an authority, and is cited as such by Michelet. Bunsen, the successor of Niebuhr, and the friend of Arnold, while devoting his chief powers to the church, has produced the most full and magnificent work ever written on the topography of Rome. Arnold himself, a zealous divine, and an unwearied schoolmaster, will live as the first philosophical and critical historian in the English language. The present bishop of London is surpassed by no living authority in Greek criticism. One of the ablest botanists of America was a Moravian minister of Bethlehem."

"As happy instances of the extent to which collateral pursuits may be felicitously carried, I may cite Charles Lamb, who was a clerk in the India house; Roscoe, who was a merchant in full employment; Crabbe, who was a parish clergyman, and a botanist as well as a poet; and Chalmers, who is not quoted as an economist and a physical philosopher, only because these characters are lost in the brilliancy of his reputation as a preacher. Our own country is not without splendid examples; in its Hopkinskins, Everetts, and Legares. Among our conchologists, who is more known than Isaac Lee, a bookseller of Philadelphia? Of our philologists and ethnographers, what names stand higher than those of Turner and Bartlett; one long a printer, the other at this moment a bookseller in active business. Then think of John Mason Goode, unequal and not always great, but uniting the labors of medicine with uncommon literary advancement; and Sir Charles Bell, whose amazing discourses in his own science were illustrated by the classic stores of his erudition, and the finished creations of his pencil; and Charles Butler, a commentator on Coke, and a yet a learned apologist for his church, and a graceful writer on ancient and modern literature; and James Montgomery, the veteran editor of a provincial newspaper, and yet a voluminous author, in prose and verse; and the late lamented Gurney, a great banker, but still greater as a philanthropist—while his scholarship and his taste might alone have given him distinction. Such instances, which it would be easy to multiply, should incite and embolden young men, in every department of human business to choose some one branch of study, in which their *horae subsecræ* may be employed."—[Boston Transcript.]

COURTSHIP IN CHURCH.—A young gentleman happening to sit at church in a pew adjoining one in which was a young lady, for whom he conceived a most sudden and violent passion, felt desirous of entering into a courtship on the spot; but the place not suited a formal declaration, the exigency suggested the following text—2d Epistle of John, verse 6th: "And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that we had from the beginning, that we love one another." She returned it with the following—2d chapter of Ruth, 10th verse: "Then she fell on her face and bowed herself to the ground, and said unto him, why have I found grace in thine eyes, that thou shouldst take notice of me, seeing I am a stranger?" He returned the book pointing to the 3d Epistle of John: "Having many things to write unto you, I would not write with paper and ink; but I trust to come unto you, and speak face to face." From the above interview, the marriage took place the ensuing week.

INDIA RUBBER CAR WHEELS.—In London India Rubber has lately been applied in a very curious manner—to the wheels of cabs. A hollow tube of about fourteen inches in diameter, composed of India Rubber, and inflated with air, is made to encircle the wheels, similar to a tyre, and all springs to the cab are dispensed with. Thus provided, the vehicle rolls along without the slightest noise, with a motion, it is said, far more agreeable than if provided with the ordinary springs, being totally free from the rattling and jolting by which they are accompanied, and with this additional advantage, as any one may be satisfied who will submit to the experiment, that if knocked down, and the wheels run over your person will sustain, comparatively, but a trifling injury.

AN exchange of ways, that restless and crying infants may frequently be relieved and quieted by a draught of cold water.—Who knows but this simple agent might supersede both spanking and paterfamilias?

GREAT REVOLUTION IN STEAM PROPULSION.—This heading will startle many of our readers. Ingenuity has been expended in devising an improvement on the present mode of propelling ships by steam. Against the old paddle wheels, strong objections as to the loss of power, and other drawbacks upon a steamer's progress have been urged which it would be useless to repeat here, for they are well known to practical engineers and seamen; and a remedy has been sought in the screw. The screw has been only partially successful, as its limited adaptation proves. The only vessel of note to which it has been applied, is the Great Britain, and the unfortunate termination of her career, hardly gave that invention a fair trial on a large scale. But a discovery has now been perfected by Mr. R. Parkhurst, a gentleman of great mechanical ingenuity, which must supersede the existing modes of steam propulsion, and revolutionize the traffic by sea. This invention is secured by patent in Great Britain, and all other countries, the United States, France, and all other parts of the world.

It is not merely original, but, in most useful inventions, really, nay, beautifully simple. The advantages are twofold—a greatly increased rate of speed—a vastly increased power of draught, by the reduction of the enormous cumbersome machinery in the holds of steamers—and reduced expenditure in the cost of engine power. It is difficult to make ourselves clear on these points without the aid of a diagram. But we may state, briefly, that a number of submerged vertical propellers are to be fixed on each side of the vessel; these revolve in unison, and by the force with which they take hold of the water, and the power which this combined action gives them, must send forward the ship at a speed altogether unattainable by the present or any former system. It is asserted by practical men, that a vessel so propelled would cross the Atlantic in nearly half the time of the best steamers now employed in ocean navigation.

This invention has undergone the scrutiny of eminent and practical men in England, by whom the most favorable opinion has been expressed of its practical character. During the past week experiments have been tried by the application of steam power to these propellers, two of which are feet high, three inches in diameter, were driven by a six-horse power engine—294 revolutions per minute, which a practical gentleman present, stated would drive a vessel 25 miles per hour. This test has removed all doubts on the minds of those who were previously most skeptical. We cannot dilate upon this greatest of modern inventions with regard to steam navigation; but this we may say, that since the days of Archimedes, nothing equal in importance to it has appeared, and we expect it will remain a brilliant proof of the genius and the judgment of the inventor.

We understand that Mr. Parkhurst, by the "Sarah Sands," on a temporary visit to America; the object, we believe, is to lay his important invention before the Government of the United States, whose navy and commerce, we feel confident, will be greatly enhanced by the application of a navigation which promises to revolutionize the whole system of navigation.

THE WIFE, A BEING TO COME HOME.—And after all, what is it that man seeks in the companionship of a woman? An influence like the gentle dew and the cheering light more felt throughout the whole existence in its softening, healing, harmonizing power, than can be acknowledged by a single act, or recognized by any certain rule. It is in fact, a being to come home to, in the happiest sense of that expression. Poetic lays of ancient times were wont to tell how the bold warrior returning from the fight, would do his plumed helmet and repose from his toils, by his side, his weary limbs that woman's hand might pour into their wounds, the healing balm.

But never weary knight or warrior, wearied with the dust of the battle fields, more in need of woman's soothing power, than those care-worn sons of the soil, who struggle for the bread of life in our more peaceful and enlightened age. And still, though the romance of the castle, the helmet, the waving plume, and the lance, may have vanished from the scene, the charm of woman's influence lives as brightly in the picture of domestic joy, as when she placed the wreath of victory on the hero's brow. Nay, more so, for there are deeper sensibilities at work, thoughts more intense, in our great theatre of intellectual and moral strife; than where the contest for martial fame, and force of arms procured for each competitor his share of glory or of wealth.

Among all changes which have taken place in the condition of mankind, it is then not the least of woman's privileges that she shall be able to man that his necessities require; that he can retire from the tumult of the world, and seek her society with a zest which nothing can impair so long as she receives him with a true and faithful heart—true to the past and kind to the future, of which her nature is capable, and sacred to the faithful trust committed to her care.

And that it is so, how many a hope can witness—how many a fireside can witness—how many a happy meeting, after a painful prolonged. Yet there are scenes within the precincts of the household hearth, which not the less because of their privacy, behold them repay and rich in days of weary conflict, and long nights of anxious care. But who shall paint them? and those who hold the picture there in all its beauty, vividness and truth, would scarcely wish to draw aside the veil that screens it from the world.

"I say, Mister, what's better to-day?" "Why, Mister, certainly."

"Well, darn'd glad of it; the last pound I bought from you was more than half tallow."

"It's hard work for many people to live; and doubly hard for some to die."